

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 28584 01 OF 02 291845Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 PM-04 L-03 ACDA-07 PA-01

SS-15 PRS-01 USIA-06 SAJ-01 DODE-00 NSC-05 CU-02

SCA-01 PPT-01 /097 W

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R 291831Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5513

USMISSION NATO

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0199

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 28584

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CSCE EEC FR

SUBJECT: CSCE: FRENCH COMMENTS ON STATE OF PLAY

REF: (A) STATE 232349 (NOTAL); (B) USNATO 5155 (NOTAL);

(C) USNATO 5182 (NOTAL); (D) PARIS 27538 (NOTAL)

1. QUAI CSCE COORDINATOR BEAUCHATAUD OFFERED US FOLLOW-
ING COMMENTS RELEVANT TO QUESTIONS DEPARTMENT'S REFTEL
(A).

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PAGE 02 PARIS 28584 01 OF 02 291845Z

2. EC-9 PAPER ON CSCE (REFS B AND C):

BEAUCHATAUD CONFIRMED THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED FAIRLY EASILY AMONG THE NINE, EXCEPT FOR QUESTION OF EXTENT TO WHICH BELGRADE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR "TINKERING WITH CSCE'S CBM PROVISIONS." FRENCH THEMSELVES HAVE NOT YET ADOPTED POSITION ON THIS POINT BUT WERE CLEARLY AMONG THE "MOST RESERVED" IN EC DISCUSSION. IN GENERAL, QUAI IS SATISFIED WITH PAPER, WHICH NOW SETS STAGE FOR CONSIDERATION OF MORE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REPORTEDLY ENUMERATED IN IT.

3. EFFORT TO OBTAIN MORE STATISTICAL INFORMATION UNDER BASKET II (REFS A AND B):

BEAUCHATAUD SAID THAT, IN RESPONSE UK SUGGESTION, QUAI HAS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO SEND NOTES, SUCCESSIVELY AND OVER PERIOD OF TIME, TO ALL EE COUNTRIES AND TO THE USSR ASKING THEM TO MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION; TO PUBLISH THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES AND NAMES OF KEY REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMERCIAL COMPANIES; AND TO FACILITATE DIRECT COMPANY-TO-COMPANY COMMERCIAL CONTACTS. BEAUCHATAUD SAID TEXT OF THIS NOTE HAD STILL NOT BEEN FINALLY APPROVED BY GUIRINGAUD AS OF FEW DAYS AGO. IF AND WHEN IT IS, IT WOULD BE SENT TO "AN EE COUNTRY" (NOT THE USSR) WHICH HAS BAD BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT WITH FRANCE AND WAS THEREFORE IN URGENT NEED OF IMPROVING ITS SALES POSTURE. SIMILAR NOTES, SUITABLY ADAPTED IN EACH CASE, WOULD LATER BE SENT TO OTHERS. (DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT QUITE CONSISTENT WITH REFERENCE TO EC-NINE AMBASSADORIAL DEMARCHE IN MOSCOW ON SIMILAR THEME REPORTED REF B. POSSIBLY BOTH STEPS WERE DECIDED ON.)

4. MEDITERRANEAN:

ANOTHER ISSUE ON WHICH FRENCH WILL AGAIN ASSUME QUASI-LEADING ROLE AMONG THE NINE WILL BE MEDITERRANEAN. BEAUCHATAUD CONFIRMED (REF D) THAT YUGOSLAVS PRESSED FAIRLY HARD DURING PREPARATION OF COMMUNIQUE FOR GIS-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PARIS 28584 01 OF 02 291845Z

CARD'S POSTPONED VISIT TO BELGRADE FOR A NEW INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. BEAUCHATAUD ASSURED US THAT FRENCH "DID NOT AND WOULD NOT" LEND THEMSELVES TO MEDITERRANEAN "DISARMAMENT EXERCISE FOR MINTOFF'S BENEFIT." INDEED THIS ONE OF KEY REASONS WHY FRENCH DID NOT WANT TO OPEN UP CBM ISSUE AT BELGRADE, SINCE MALTESE, YUGOSLAVS AND OTHERS WOULD SEIZE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS AGAIN FOR APPLICATION OF CBM'S TO MED. ON

OTHER HAND, BEAUCHATAUD SAID, SOME "MEDITERRANEAN EFFORT" WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE TO BE MADE AT BELGRADE, PROBABLY BY ARRANGING "PRESENCE" FOR COUNTRIES OF MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL WHO HAD BEEN HELSINKI OBSERVERS. WHEN EMBOFF RECALLED CERTAIN PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED THIS SCORE, BEAUCHATAUD AGREED BUT REITERATED THAT ONE COULD HARDLY GO BACK "ON CONCLUSIONS REACHED IN MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION." HOWEVER, FRENCH WERE AWARE ISSUE WILL REQUIRE "MOST CAREFUL HANDLING."

5. ON SEPARATE QUESTION OF FRENCH-SOVIET BILATERAL CSCE EXCHANGES, BEAUCHATAUD REPORTS THAT GOF HAD FOUND THAT IT WAS UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH SOVIET REQUEST THAT VARIOUS

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PAGE 01 PARIS 28584 02 OF 02 291842Z

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R 291831Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USMISSION NATO

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0200

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 28584

TYPES OF OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC VISAS BE ISSUED WITHIN SPECIFIED SHORT TIME PERIODS. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS MAY WELL USE THIS AS STICK TO BEAT FRENCH WITH AT BELGRADE, FRENCH INTERIOR MINISTRY HAD CONCLUDED THAT SECURITY CHECK PROCEDURES REQUIRED FOR SCREENING SOVIET OFFICIALS SIMPLY COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN FRAMEWORK SOVIETS HAD PROPOSED. (COMMENT: THIS FRENCH REACTION MAY WELL BE FURTHER REASON FOR RECENT EVIDENCES OF FRANCO-SOVIET "VISA WAR.")

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PAGE 02 PARIS 28584 02 OF 02 291842Z

6. SIMILARLY BEAUCHATAUD SAID QUAI HAD EXAMINED "US IDEA" OF DOING AWAY WITH FEES LEVIED ON PASSPORTS TO STIMULATE TRAVEL. GIVEN PRESENT AUSTERITY IN FRENCH BUDGET, REINFORCED BY REQUIREMENTS OF BARRE'S ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM, CONCLUSION HAS BEEN REACHED IN PARIS THAT THIS INTRINSICALLY GOOD IDEA WAS UNFORTUNATELY ALS O NON-STARTER AS FAR AS FRENCH WERE CONCERNED.

7. FOR USNATO: WE TOO WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING COPY OF EC-9 PAPER (REFTELS B AND C) AND FUTURE SUCH DOCUMENTS TO FACILITATE QUAI DISCUSSIONS.

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